



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 13 March 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- Newsday reports policy experts said on Tuesday that the likelihood of terrorist groups targeting chemical facilities and nuclear power plants is far greater than their ability to unleash weapons of mass destruction. (See item [5](#))
- The Miami Herald reports federal officials said on Tuesday that members of an anti-terrorism task force are analyzing the vulnerability to the threat of shoulder-fired missiles at dozens of commercial airports nationwide. (See item [11](#))
- The Philadelphia Inquirer reports area maritime businesses and law enforcement agencies have created the nation's first high-tech information system, providing critical cargo-tracking information, to tighten security and keep commerce flowing. (See item [13](#))
- The Associated Press reports American Foods Group is voluntarily recalling about 106,000 pounds of ground beef that may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria, from its Ohio plant. (See item [15](#))
- eWEEK reports security experts are watching a new variant of the Code Red II worm that began appearing on some monitoring networks Tuesday; the worm is nearly identical to its ancestor, except for a modified drop-dead date that is now several thousand years in the future. (See item [27](#))

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Energy Sector



Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 12, Associated Press* — **U.S., Russia sign reactor shutdown deal.** The United States and Russia signed agreements on Wednesday reviving an on-again, off-again deal to shut down the last three Russian reactors producing nuclear weapons-grade plutonium. **Under terms of the accords, the United States will spend an estimated \$500 million on two new fossil-fuel power plants to replace the reactors, which provide heat and electricity to Seversk and Zheleznogorsk. The Siberian cities once were secret, "closed" locations of the Soviet military establishment.** The agreements "set the stage for another important advancement in our cooperative nonproliferation efforts," U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said. The signing "demonstrated to the entire world that Russia and America are friends and partners," said his Russian counterpart, Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev. **They signed the documents at Vienna's Hofburg Congress Hall, on the sidelines of a three-day global conference, co-sponsored by their governments, on another nonproliferation concern, the potential for development of terrorist "dirty bombs" – conventional, non-nuclear bombs packed with radioactive materials.** The Russians, who have shut down 10 other plutonium-producing plants, continued operating the two at Seversk and one at Zheleznogorsk because they were vital to the power supplies of the cities, formerly known as Tomsk-7 and Krasnoyarsk-26. They continued reprocessing the spent uranium fuel from the power plants into plutonium not to make bombs, but because indefinite storage of the spent fuel would have been prohibitively expensive.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14788-2003Mar_12.html
2. *March 11, Scotland on Sunday* — **Terrorism fears block nuclear plant tours. British Energy has suspended public tours of its nuclear power stations including two in Scotland amid terrorism concerns. The East Kilbride company, headed by the new chief executive Mike Alexander, said the decision had been taken because of the public's heightened concerns over security issues.** It said although it believes its security arrangements are robust, the safety of staff and the public was paramount. It was a difficult decision to make because the tours are very popular, said a spokesman. The company will now carry out a review of the visits scheme and decide on its long term future once that is complete. British Energy's eight nuclear stations attract thousands of visitors each year, including school parties and community groups. **But since the September 11 attacks security at stations across the world has been stepped up amid fears that they could become terrorist targets. Security concerns at UK sites were raised in January after a group of Greenpeace protesters broke into British Energy's Sizewell B site in Suffolk.** About 40 activists climbed up ladders and on to the roof of the 20 metre high cooling water pump house on the site. The government later said it was satisfied with security there.
Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3704048
3. *March 11, Associated Press* — **Iran's Nuclear Plant Nears Completion.** Iran's first nuclear power plant, which the United States claims can be used to make nuclear bombs, is nearing completion and all major components are installed, Iranian officials said Tuesday. **"Over 70 percent of the work has been accomplished," Assadollah Sabori, deputy head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said in a press conference. "The main thing left is shipping nuclear fuel from Russia, which is expected to take place in May," he said.** The United States has accused Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons and says the plant will be able to

produce nuclear material for a bomb. Iran says the plant will be used to meet the country's growing electricity needs. Steam generators, pressure vessels, pressurizers and reactor cooling plants have already been installed. The components, shipped to Iran from Russia in the past 18 months, form the core of a nuclear reactor. **Sabori said 1,100 Russian experts and over 3,000 Iranians are working at the plant's first unit. He said Iran had the option of setting up three other reactors at Bushehr, 745 miles southwest of the capital Tehran. He said Iran has agreed to return the spent nuclear fuel to Russia but that some formalities remained before Iran makes the deal official.** Iran says the 1,000-megawatt Bushehr plant is part of efforts to supply enough electricity to its 66 million people. Iran has approved a plan to produce 6,000 megawatts of power through nuclear energy by 2020.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3704038

4. *March 11, Reuters* — **California regulators question key power grid upgrade.** A project to unclog a big bottleneck on California's power grid — a contributor to blackouts in 2000–2001 — has been thrown into question by a judge at the California Public Utilities Commission. **CPUC Judge Meg Gottstein, in a draft order late last week, ruled utility Pacific Gas & Electric Co. cannot go ahead with the \$323 million job to expand the "Path 15" transmission corridor because it will not provide utility customers enough savings to offset the project's cost.** Lynch said the Central Valley project, which aims to add more capacity to the high-voltage lines that carry power between southern and northern California, provides economic benefits by acting as an "expensive" insurance policy against "market gaming abuses" like those in 2000–2001. California has charged that energy traders manipulated the wholesale electricity market to rig prices at 10 times normal levels during the state's energy crisis.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_03_11_eng-reuters_pma_CALIF-REGULATORS-QUESTION-KEY-POWER-GRID-UPGRADEa

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Chemical Sector

5. *March 11, Newsday* — **Dangerous targets on U.S. soil. The likelihood of terrorist groups such as al Qaeda targeting chemical facilities and nuclear power plants is far greater than their ability to unleash weapons of mass destruction, policy experts said at a briefing yesterday to address potential domestic attacks.** While groups such as al Qaeda have made efforts to obtain and develop chemical and biological weapons, the federal government has produced no evidence that the groups currently possess such agents, said Elisa Harris, a chemical and bioterrorism research associate at the Center of International Security Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. More worrisome, she said, is the idea of an attack on one of the 38,000 U.S. facilities that store dangerous industrial chemicals, such as chlorine. **"We should be less concerned about chemical weapons attacks and more concerned with preventing the chemical equivalent of the September 11th attacks," Harris said, suggesting that better warning systems be put in place in communities near such facilities.** Similar concerns exist when considering the approximately 100 nuclear power plants in the nation, said Steven Fetter, a physicist and professor of public policy at the University of Maryland center. Though nuclear weapons are both reliable and very destructive, the chances of

a terrorist group obtaining such weapons are small, he said. **The "greatest overall risk" in the nuclear or radiological arena would be an attack on a nuclear facility, Fetter said, which would be equivalent to "thousands of small nuclear weapons."** He suggested guards at nuclear facilities plan for more aggressive attacks than they have planned for in the past. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-usterr113168203mar11.0.5493627.story?coll=ny%2Dnationalnews%2Dprint>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *March 12, New York Times* — **Largest conventional bomb dropped in a test in Florida.** The Air Force on Tuesday successfully tested in Florida the largest conventional bomb in the American arsenal, a munition so massive that its 18,000 pounds of high explosives must be dropped from the rear of a cargo plane, officials said. The bomb explodes a few feet above the ground, and is designed to send a devastating wave of fire and blast hundreds of yards to kill troops, flatten trees, knock over structures, collapse cave entrances and, in general, demoralize those far beyond the impact zone. **The weapon is officially called the Massive Ordnance Air Blast. The entire weapon weighs 21,500 pounds, including a satellite guidance system intended to bring the bomb closer to its target than its predecessor, the 15,000-pound BLU-82, which fell to earth unguided.** The MOAB is carried aloft aboard an MC-130, a cargo plane flown by Air Force Special Operations Forces. The bomb rolls out the rear cargo door of the plane on a pallet, and a parachute yanks it free of the aircraft. The pallet and parachute then separate from the bomb.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/12/national/12BOMB.html>

7. *March 12, Associated Press* — **Pennsylvania center steps up shipments to troops.** The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia last year arranged purchases of \$7.8 billion worth of food, clothing, medical supplies, hardware, lumber and other goods for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. The need for those items is increasing sharply this year as President Bush amasses troops, planes and ships in the Middle East to back the threat of war against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "Anything a soldier eats, anything they need to be cared for, anything they wear, or use for constructing buildings and things like that, comes from the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia," center spokesman Frank Johnson said. **None of the boots, bandages, food items, hardware, tents, flags or lumber are actually at the supply center. Some items are stored at and shipped from warehouses like the center's Defense Distribution Center at New Cumberland.** Workers at the depot, just south of Harrisburg on the Susquehanna River, were assembling orders Tuesday of supplies from tank treads to toilet paper to be trucked to military cargo planes at Dover, Del., or to various ports for shipment. **But more often, supplies are shipped direct from manufacturers to the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine units that order them, as the military adopts the just-in-time delivery concept that big manufacturers and their suppliers have switched to in recent years.**

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14116-2003Mar_12.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 11, House of Representatives* — **Hearing entitled "Progress Since 9/11: The Effectiveness of U.S. Anti-Terrorist Financing Efforts"**. The House Financial Services Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee (Committee on Financial Services), chaired by Rep. Sue Kelly (NY), held a hearing on March 11, entitled "Progress Since 9/11: The Effectiveness of U.S. Anti-Terrorist Financing Efforts. The Subcommittee discussed successes in anti-terrorist financing efforts, as well as how the Patriot Act can be improved to assist law enforcement in tracking down terrorist financiers. Prepared Testimony: Alice Fisher, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice
<http://financialservices.house.gov/media/pdf/031103af.pdf>
Source: <http://financialservices.house.gov/hearings.asp?formmode=detail=4>
9. *March 11, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network* — **FinCEN Advisory Issue 33 : Informal Value Transfer Systems (March 2003)**. The March 2003 advisory (Issue 33) provides financial institutions with information concerning Informal Value Transfer Systems (IVTS). **The purpose of the advisory is to educate the financial community about IVTS by: 1) explaining the operation of IVTS; 2) describing how financial institutions may be used in the IVTS process; and 3) identifying how the Bank Secrecy Act, as amended by the USA PATRIOT Act, regulates IVTS operators.**
Source: <http://www.fincen.gov/advis33.pdf>

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Transportation Sector

10. *March 12, Daily Press (Hampton Roads, VA)* — **Keeping a closer eye on local airports. Federal security officials have identified several local vantage points where terrorists with shoulder-fired missile systems could get a clear view of planes leaving or arriving at Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport and Norfolk International Airport. The Transportation Security Administration has asked local police departments in Newport News, York County, Norfolk and Virginia Beach to keep a special watch on people in those areas**, said Donald J. Bartnik, the TSA's local director. Local checks come at a time when anti-terrorism officials are fanning out to the nation's largest 80 airports to inspect their susceptibility to a rocket-launcher attack. Bartnik said that the two local airports aren't on that list, which is why he and local staffers conducted their own inspections. Bartnik declined to identify the vulnerable locations here, but said they're generally in secluded areas along a straightaway extending about three miles from the paths of the airports' runways. The planes can be deemed vulnerable to an attack – from, say, a Stinger missile – until it's 10,000 feet above ground, Bartnik said. "Even with these missile systems, it takes some time to set them up," Bartnik said. **"People don't just jump out of a car with the missile without some prior planning. They scope out an area to see what's there. We just want to make sure that if there's someone loitering in those areas that the police stop them and find out what's going on."** He also asked ordinary passersby to look for people who may be setting up missile systems along a plane's flight path.
Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/business/local/dp-66800sy0mar12.0>

11. *March 12, Miami Herald* — **Task force to find out whether Miami International Airport is safe. Members of an anti-terrorism task force are analyzing the vulnerability at Miami International Airport — and dozens of other commercial airports nationwide — to the threat of shoulder-fired missiles, federal officials said Tuesday.** Yet they emphasized that intelligence reports do not point to a planned missile attack against passenger planes anywhere in the United States. Task force agents from the FBI, the Secret Service and the Transportation Security Administration surveyed Miami International last week to determine what measures can be taken to prevent or counter the threat of such an attack, said FBI spokeswoman Judy Orihuela. No other airports in Miami-Dade or Broward County are being analyzed, she said. **"The TSA has completed initial vulnerability assessments at all major airports in the U.S.,"** said Brian Roehrkasse, spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. **"And members of the task force are in the process of looking at those assessments."** At MIA, planes take off and land by flying over busy highways and heavily populated areas. The missiles, which have a maximum range of about three miles, can reach an altitude of up to 12,000 feet.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/5369397.htm>

12. *March 12, Washington Post* — **Private pilots breach area no-fly zone. More than 35 general aviation aircraft have violated airspace restrictions covering much of the Washington area since Friday, with many straying into the forbidden zone as the result of being unaware of tighter flight rules put into place during last month's heightened terror alert, federal authorities said Tuesday.** In several instances, pilots were directed out of the restricted area by federal authorities patrolling the skies in Black Hawk helicopters. Some were forced to land at nearby airports for questioning, authorities said. **None of the pilots appeared to have intentionally violated Washington airspace, and none caused any harm, authorities said.** The Federal Aviation Administration established the stricter flight rules in the Washington area Feb. 10, soon after the nation's threat index was raised to its second-highest level, orange, connoting a high risk of a terrorist attack. Although the threat index was moved back a notch to yellow Feb. 27, the restrictions have remained in effect. Pilots must receive clearance from air traffic controllers before entering the restricted area, but many are failing to do so. **The spate of recent violations has created challenges for federal authorities attempting to sort out those inadvertently straying into the restricted area from those who might be planning to launch a terrorist strike.** Aviation specialists said last weekend's clear skies and favorable weather brought out numerous pilots who apparently were unaware of the new rules.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12738-2003Mar_11.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *March 12, Philadelphia Inquirer* — **Area officials have adapted a tracking system to watch over U.S. ships in an age of terrorism.** Philadelphia-area maritime businesses and law enforcement agencies have created what they say is the nation's first high-tech information system to tighten security and keep commerce flowing in the age of terrorism. **Called RISK**

Alert, it already is providing critical cargo-tracking information – including pictures and data on ship crew members – to law enforcement agents. The new system, developed over the last six months, spots potential threats – to security and to the region's economy – and monitors the massive volumes of cargo crossing oceans on thousands of huge ships registered in countries such as Liberia and Panama. Although testing of RISK Alert won't be complete until May, government and business officials already are discussing its expansion to other seaports. The system is providing more information and time "to analyze situations, coordinate a response... and commit more resources to suspicious vessels," said Joe Alkus, a 25-year federal Customs law enforcement agent who helped design the system.

Source: <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/5369951.htm>

14. *March 11, Cincinnati Post* — Conference looks at possible threat to river transportation.

Scott Noble said if he were a terrorist following up on the Sept. 11, 2001, plane crashes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon, he would try something different. "There are any number of ways," he says, "to create havoc." Among them, Noble conceded, is terrorizing his business — river transportation. **The specter of blowing up an Ohio River barge full of petroleum under the Brent Spence Bridge — and how to prevent such maritime terrorist acts — is the focus of a national conference this week in Cincinnati. Sizing up the risks and developing strategies for dealing with them will be discussed by more than 300 maritime experts attending the annual Inland Waterways Navigational Conference today through Thursday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cincinnati.** America's rivers and lakes carry vast quantities of commercial products. Each year, for instance, 271 million tons of cargo — including petroleum, chemicals and coal — is shipped up and down the Ohio River.

Source: <http://www.cincypost.com/2003/03/11/river031103.html>

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Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.

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Food Sector

15. *March 12, Associated Press* — Ohio meat supplier recalls ground beef. A food processing company is voluntarily recalling about 106,000 pounds of ground beef that may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria. American Foods Group said the beef was produced January 24 at its Sharonville, OH plant and was carried by the Kroger and Meijer chains. Neither company has received reports of customers becoming ill from the beef, spokesmen for both Kroger and Meijer said. **The beef was sold from January 25 through February 3 at Kroger stores in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia; and Meijer stores in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Kentucky.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14925-2003Mar 12.html>

16.

March 12, San Francisco Chronicle — **California gets a taste of irradiation. Today, for the first time, California–grown fruit that's been irradiated is up for sale. The irradiated grapefruit and mandarin oranges were harvested in San Diego County where an infestation of crop–destroying Mexican fruit flies has taken hold.** To keep the flies from spreading, federal and state agricultural authorities imposed a 130–square–mile quarantine and authorized the first irradiation of produce grown in the continental United States. No produce can be moved out of the quarantine zone unless treated to kill any flies and larvae, and according to state agricultural officials, irradiation is the only option.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2003/03/12/MN90689.DTL>

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Water Sector

17. *March 12, Belleville News Democrat* — **Water company hires Pinkerton security guards.** Most of the metro–east's fresh water system now is under the protection of one of the world's oldest security agencies. **The use of Pinkerton security guards at several Madison and St. Clair, IL water intake tanks and treatment plants is part of an economic move, said Dennis Wingertsahn, manager of Illinois–American Water Co.'s southern division.** "We think it will be cost effective," Wingertsahn said. "And we will continue to ensure our customers that we are diligently protecting our water supplies 24 hours a day, each and every day." **Since the September 11 attacks, the local water company's parent, American Waterworks has had 24–hour guards at all its waterworks in 29 states. Pinkertons also will assume duties at locations in the other states.**

Source: <http://www.belleville.com/mld/newsdemocrat/5370546.htm>

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Public Health Sector

18. *March 12, GenomeWeb News* — **Genomics and proteomics find home in biodefense. Many researchers have pinned their hopes on using proteomics and DNA microarray technologies for rapidly detecting the presence of potential pathogens.** Nancy Valentine, a scientist in the environmental technology division of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, described how her group is applying matrix–assisted laser desorption ionization mass spectrometry to identify various pathogenic bacteria. Valentine's group was able to accurately identify the bacteria even when the organisms were grown under disparate conditions, but she said using mass spectrometry to detect an airborne pathogen will require more sensitive technology. Other proteomics practioners are hoping to aid in the search for new vaccines to protect against bioterror agents. **At the University of California, Irvine, Luis Villareal is leading an effort to develop a broadly applicable strategy for expressing the entire proteomes of pathogenic viruses, starting with smallpox.** Scientists are also tying their more basic research in genomics and proteomics to biodefense. In separate posters, researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory described their analysis of the genomes of *Francisella tularensis* (responsible for typhoid fever) genome, and *Brucella abortus* (responsible for undulant fever).

Source: http://www.genomeweb.com/articles/view-article.asp?Article=2_00331295626

19. *March 12, Washington Post* — **Lack of lab space may delay new vaccines. Scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) say that without more of the highly secure laboratories, which are needed to test countermeasures against such lethal viruses as smallpox, anthrax, and Ebola, new vaccines and drugs could be significantly delayed.** And despite the urgency and ample funding Congress and the Bush administration have given the effort, lab development is proceeding slowly. **John La Montagne, deputy director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which helps develop bioterrorism vaccines, estimated that within 18 months, the shortage of lab space could significantly delay tests of new countermeasures.** "We're trying to work with what we've got," La Montagne said. "But eventually it's going to be extremely critical. There's a lot of money going into research in this area, and this will generate a lot of ideas that must be evaluated and tested."

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A13003-2003Mar_11.html

20. *March 11, Knight Ridder Newspapers* — **Soap and water effective against anthrax-like bacteria, study finds. University of North Carolina School of Medicine professors contaminated the hands of volunteers with a bacteria similar to anthrax, then ordered them to clean up with various products. The results: Vigorous scrubbing with good old-fashioned soap and water is still the champ, matching an antiseptic agent commonly used in hospitals and working better than an alcohol-based handrub that's liked by many doctors and nurses.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently advised doctors and nurses to use alcohol-based handrubs, because they're less time-consuming than running to the sink between every patient, and easier on the skin. This study found that's not good advice when it comes to anthrax. **Soap and water does the trick by removing more than 95 percent of the bacteria spores from the skin. The handrub recommended by the CDC is ineffective, because the spores remain on the hand, and alcohol doesn't kill them.**

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/5369165.htm>

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Government Sector

21. *March 12, Associated Press* — **Ashcroft to treat security as environmental issue.** Attorney General John D. Ashcroft said on Tuesday that he plans to crack down on companies that fail to do all they can to protect against environmentally damaging terrorist attacks on pipelines, storage tanks, transportation networks, and industrial plants. **Emphasizing homeland security as an environmental issue, Ashcroft pledged to increase the Justice Department's prosecution of civil cases to make operators of pipelines, fuel storage tanks, chemical plants, and drinking water facilities comply with environmental and safety laws. He said that the campaign would mean going to court to ensure that pipelines do not leak or explode; that hazardous wastes and chemicals are properly stored, treated, and disposed of; that water supplies are protected; and that each facility develops emergency response plans.** The Justice Department also will seek criminal penalties when appropriate, Ashcroft said.

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/071/nation/Ashcroft_to_tre_at_security_as_environmental_issue+.shtml

22. *March 12, Washington Post* — **Terror suspect's photos cited.** The FBI has discovered photographs of the World Trade Center towers taken before and after they were destroyed in a computer used by a Saudi doctoral student arrested in Idaho last month. Sami Omar al-Hussayen, 34, allegedly raised and distributed money through radical Islamic Web sites that promoted suicide attacks against the United States. Federal prosecutors in Boise, appearing in court on Tuesday seeking to have al-Hussayen held without bond, said the photos were found after he was taken into custody on 11 counts of visa fraud and false statements. **An FBI agent testified that he unearthed thousands of photographs, including shots of planes hitting buildings, plane crashes, the Pentagon and the Empire State Building, in the hard drive of a computer al-Hussayen used regularly at the University of Idaho engineering laboratory, where he was studying computer science. "I can't begin to guess how many were of the World Trade Center," agent Michael Gneckow told the court, according to the Associated Press.** The indictment against al-Hussayen said he provided computer services and advice to Web sites that "advocated violence against the United States."

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12758-2003Mar_11.html

23. *March 11, House of Representatives* — **Inspectors General find federal agencies lax in safeguarding social security numbers.** On Tuesday, Representative E. Clay Shaw, Jr. (R-FL), Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Chairman of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, released a report finding that many federal agencies are not adequately protecting the confidentiality of individual Social Security numbers. **The report, issued by the Social Security Administration's Inspector General, was compiled by the Offices of Inspector General at 15 federal agencies on behalf of the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency.** Entitled Federal Agencies' Control over the Access, Disclosure and Use of Social Security Numbers by External Entities, the report found that 14 of the 15 federal agencies reviewed lacked adequate controls over contractor access to their databases or files that contain Social Security numbers. **Federal agencies often rely on contractors to provide public services, such as health and retirement benefits. In one case, the report found that an agency had allowed contractor employees access to its database before the employees' background checks were completed. Contractors at another agency were maintaining personal identifying information in unlocked file cabinets or storage rooms. Others were leaving sensitive records on desktops or open shelves after normal working hours. One agency could not even systematically identify the contractors who had access to this sensitive information.**

Source: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/news.asp?formmode=release4>

24. *March 11, The White House* — **Personnel Announcement – Additional Nominations for the Department of Homeland Security.** President George W. Bush today announced his intention to nominate two individuals, nominate and designate one individual, designate two individuals and appoint one individual to serve in his administration: The President intends to nominate **Joe D. Whitley of Georgia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Homeland Security.** He currently serves as an Equity Partner with Alston & Bird in Atlanta, Georgia. He previously served as U.S. Attorney for both the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia. The President intends to nominate **Eduardo Aguirre, Jr. of Texas, to be the Director of the Bureau of**

Citizenship and Immigration Service at the Department of Homeland Security. He is currently the Acting Director of the Bureau and the Vice Chairman and First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Aguirre previously worked for Bank of America for 24 years. The President intends to designate **Michael J. Garcia of New York, to be Acting Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement), and nominate him to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement).** Garcia is currently the Acting Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization at the Department of Justice.

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030311-22.html>

25. *March 11, Federal Computer Week* — **Study delves into info sharing.** Even before Sept. 11, 2001, government agencies were moving toward integrating their information systems with an eye toward one-stop shopping or data sharing. Those efforts accelerated during the past two years, especially among law enforcement agencies. Despite the energy poured into information sharing initiatives, governments are left to wonder if they really know how to implement them successfully. **With a \$1.2 million National Science Foundation grant, the Center for Technology in Government is embarking on a project to try to answer that question. The center, based in the University at Albany/State University of New York, will work to better understand the social and technical aspects of information integration by focusing on two New York state projects.** "One of the challenges with understanding how far we've actually gone is that integration is in the eye of the beholder," said Theresa Pardo, project director at the center. **While e-government is important, she said implications for homeland security are even greater "because of the kind of almost...data element by data element integration that I think is necessary to provide the kind of information that they're seeking to provide."** Such integration would mean aligning disparate business processes and policies.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0310/web-suny-03-11-03.asp>

26. *March 10, Federal Times* — **Air Marshals apply to return to Border Patrol.** Currently, about 200 former Border Patrol agents are applying to return, said Steve Mangino, associate chief for the Border Patrol. So far, the Border Patrol has rehired 69 of them, he said. "For the most part, I think everyone is looking forward to having these people back," Mangino said. "A lot of our best agents left the service to go to the air marshals." TSA and the Border Patrol both are now part of the Homeland Security Department's Border and Transportation Security Directorate. **The Border Patrol needs to hire agents to reach its authorized fiscal 2003 staffing level of 11,121. It is more than 1,000 people short of that goal now, Mangino said. Rehiring the former agents could be a huge boon, possibly saving the agency millions of dollars. The cost of rehiring a former agent is about \$3,500 for a background check, compared with almost \$100,000 spent on recruiting, training, background checks, equipment and other necessities for a new hire in his or her first year, Mangino said.**

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=1645052>

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Emergency Services Sector

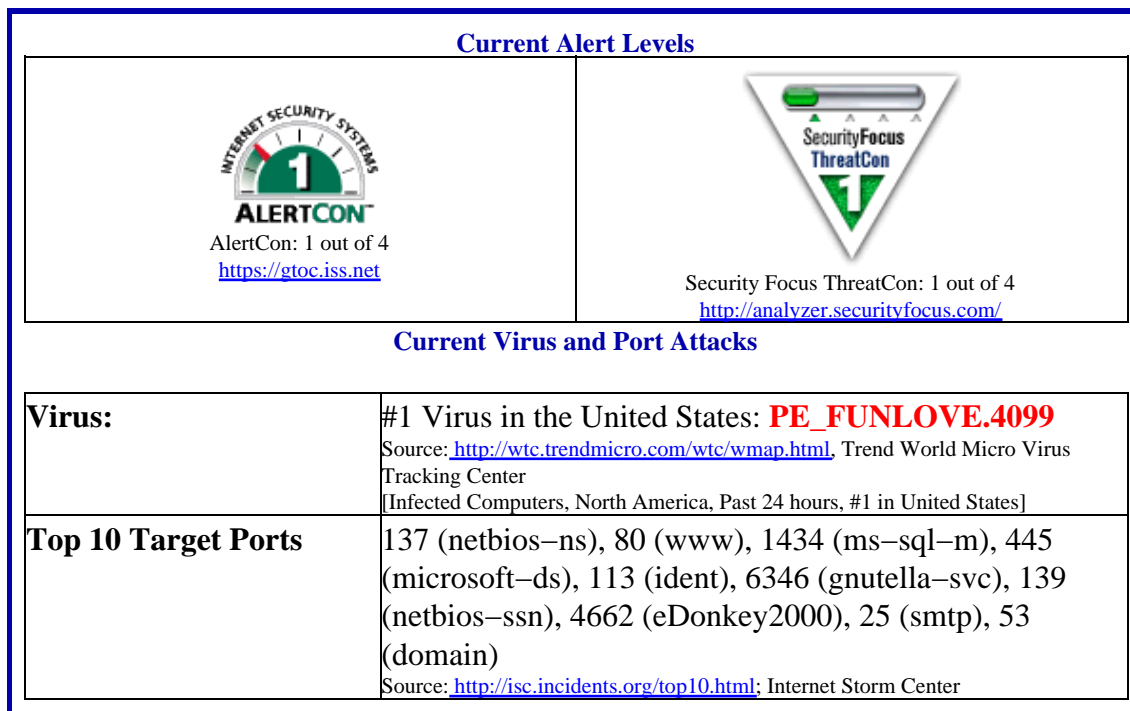
Nothing to report.

Information and Telecommunications Sector

27. *March 11, eWEEK* — New variant of Code Red II discovered. Security experts are watching a new variant of the Code Red II worm that began appearing on some monitoring networks Tuesday. **The worm is nearly identical to its ancestor, save for a modified drop-dead date that is now several thousand years in the future.** Known as **Code Red.F**, the worm uses the same infection method as the previous versions, attacking Web servers running Microsoft Corp.'s IIS software. The worm so far has infected only a few machines, and **because most administrators patched their servers after the initial Code Red outbreak in 2001, it is unlikely to spread extensively**, experts say. All of the Code Red worms exploit an unchecked buffer in the Index Server in the IIS software. They then spread by infecting one machine and then scanning a list of random IP addresses and attempting to connect to port 80. **The original Code Red, which struck in July 2001, infected several hundred thousand IIS servers and caused massive traffic disruptions on some portions of the Internet.**

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,3959,924269,00.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard



General Sector

28. *March 12, Reuters* — IAEA director warns of 'dirty bomb' risk. The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said on Tuesday that stricter security measures were urgently needed to keep radioactive material out of the hands of terrorists, who could use it to

spread havoc with "dirty bombs." Mohamed ElBaradei, the International Atomic Energy Agency chief, made the call on the opening day of an international conference on dirty bombs, which are made by attaching radioactive material to a conventional bomb to spread it over a wide area. While there has never been a dirty bomb attack, ElBaradei said recent reports about terrorist plans to use dirty bombs were worth taking seriously and that countries should spend time and money to beef up nuclear security. **"Our database of cases of smuggling . . . gives an indication that there is a market and there is an effort to obtain radioactive sources, and the obvious question is why,"** he said.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12629-2003Mar_11.html

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